separate department of Consumer Affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons of the state Governments thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the consumer movement a great success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been felt that creation of a separate Department of Consumer Affairs would strengthen the consumer movement in the country.

(c) The State Governments have shown concern for the consumers. All the State Governments have set up consumer redressal fora.

(d) Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, 3 tier redressal agencies have been set up. At present, one National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission). 31 State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission) and 457 Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (District Fora) are functioning in the States/UTs. In addition one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are also functioning in the State of Jammu & Kashmir where they have enacted a separate Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987. The Central Government is providing one time central assistance to the State Governments/UTs for strengthening the infrastructural facilities of these State Commissions and District Fora.

Fall in production in Dankuni Coal Complex

2064. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "CIL's Dankuni Coal Complex falls by the wayside" as reported in Statesman dated 29th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Dankuni Coal Complex has failed to boost production/ exploration of Coal as targetted; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The investment for setting up of the Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) was approved by the Government in July 1980. Construction work for the main plant was entrusted to the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi on turn-key basis. The construction of the plant was delayed mainly due to slow execution by M/s HEC and their associates. The construction of the plant was completed in May, 1989 and the commercial operation commenced in May, 1990. Many of the teething problems observed since commissioning were rectified by Coal India Limited (CIL) as HEC failed to rectify these in time. The main reason for low utilisation of the plant is due to the failure of the linked consumer, Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) to draw the agreed volume of gas from the plant.

(d) In order to overcome the situation, a marketing strategy for the different products of the plant was evolved in a series meetings taken by the Ministry of

Coal with the officials of CIL/DCC, the State Government of West Bengal and representatives of trade Unions. To alimited extent market of gas has been identified with Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and further efforts are being made to augment supply to GCGSC. Market for the solid products and chemicals have also been identified by CIL. As a result of the marketing strategies adopted, there has been improvement in cash realisation from sale since 1992-93.

2065. SHRI RATNABAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of people including workers employees and their dependents in Pashok, Vah-Tukvar and Putong Tea Estates in Darjeeling under the TTCI are Starving due to non-payment of their wages and salaries and non-distribution of ration for months together;

(b) the reason for Government lingering the process of sale of these gardens to private parties; and

(c) what steps Government intend to take to save the starving people till the deals are settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: (a) There has been some outstanding salary/wages/ration etc. of workers in respect of Pashok, Vah-Tukvar and Potong Tea Estates in Darjeeling owned by TTCI in view of the fact that TTCI is facing acute financial crunch on account of the consistent losses suffered by the gardens owned by the Corporation. Monthly income generated by these gardens has not been sufficient to meet the expenditure on account of salaries/wages/ration etc. of workers.

(b) and (c) Government is keen to complete the process of sale of the gardens as early as possible. However, there has been some difficulty in completing the sale process of the gardens owned by TTCI on account of legal proceedings and other constraints. All possible steps are being taken to expedite the sale process.

Managment of TTCI has been advised to take all necessary measures to ensure that till the sale process is completed, manufacturing activities at the gardens are continued to the maximum extent feasible to ensure generation of adequate surpluses to meet the liabilities on account of dues of workers etc.

Cases in Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

2066. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases disposed of by Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and by Dibrugarh and Guwahati District forums since their inception;

(b) the number of cases pending before the said CDRC and the two forums;

(c) the amount spent by Government on the said CDRC and two Forums since their inception. Forum-wise and year-wise break up; and

(d) the number of cases decided by the said CDRC appealed against and disposed/pending before National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission during the last three years; year-wise breakup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The required information is given in the attached statements I, II and III